

Report on AB224 Implementation
and
Update on the Office of Parental Involvement
August 1, 2012

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2. On or before August 1 of each year, the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement shall prepare a report which includes a summary of the:

(a) Status of the progress made by the school districts and public schools in effectively involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children and an identification of any areas where further improvement is needed; and

(b) Activities of the Office during the immediately preceding school year, including the progress made by the Office, in consultation with the Advisory Council, in assisting the school districts and public schools with increasing the effectiveness of involving parents and engaging families in the education of their children.

Introduction

The following report on the activities of the Nevada Department of Education's (NDE's) Office of Parent Involvement includes requirements from AB224, as well as the Office's progress since March 5, 2012, when staff was hired to address these requirements. In cooperation with the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE), NDE has accomplished many of the bill's requirements in this short amount of time and is collaborating with the Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement on other requirements to be addressed this year.

Review and evaluate programs supported by federal funding re: family engagement

In collaboration with the Advisory Council, the Office has reviewed the 2010-2011 school district accountability reports concerning parent communication and created a rubric to measure effectiveness of the activities in the reports. We found that the reports varied greatly in length and content. We are in the process of setting specific guidelines to assist in the creation of uniform policies and reports.

A sample of Title I school district parent involvement plans will be reviewed in August by a team consisting of the Office and the Advisory Council.

List of effective practices

The Office shared a free webinar of national family engagement experts with the 17 school district contacts and RPDP in June. In addition, to the school districts, the Office forwarded national websites on effective family engagement and Summit information to encourage future Summit attendance.

The Office collaborated with the Advisory Council to identify and purchase family engagement books for each school district PIFE coordinator and RPDP that provided information on effective practices.

In addition, the Office is working to transition the current PIRC website through a revised link to the NDE website to provide resources, trainings, and lessons for family engagement. This

website will be regularly updated with links sent to school districts. (See website information below for more information.)

In collaboration with other NDE Offices, the Office co-facilitated two sessions on family engagement at the American Indian Education Summit in March. The Office also provided an introduction to the Office and AB224 at the Nevada PTA Conference and made several contacts there. In addition, the Office provided an overview of AB224 at the Title I Directors' spring 2012 meeting.

AIES Summary Results

If the Nevada Department of Education could provide support for Nevada schools on family engagement, what would be your top three priorities?

N=49

Category	Number	Comment
Communication	1	Bulletins
	3	Newletters
	4	Improved/Additional Communication
Parents	2	Summits
	2	Additional Parent Input/Collaboration
	6	Incentives for Parents
	5	Classes for Parents/Volunteer Training
	2	Empower Parents
	3	Classes for Parents to Help Children Study/Do Homework
	1	Create Fun/Entertaining Parent Curriculum
	4	Gain Parent Trust
	1	Family Understanding
	1	How to Engage Disengaged Parents
Parent Centers	9	Family Liason in Schools/Parent Center/Parent Services
Funding	7	Additional Funding
	2	Funding for Food
	1	Funding for Family Engagement
	1	Funding for Higher Ed Trade School
	1	Raise Teachers' Salaries
	2	Funding for Technology/Parent Computer Centers in Schools
	1	Equal Funding for All Schools Within the State
	1	Funding to Align Programs
Data	5	Data Collection/Analysis Training for Parents
	1	Simplify Data
Culture	9	Culture Included in Content Area Reading
	4	Train Teachers to Teach Culture
	2	Attend Cultural Events
Category	Number	Comment
Culture Continued	1	Staff/Administrative Support of Cultural Events
	1	Ask Natives for Information on Presenting/Teaching Culture
	2	Encourage Tribal/Cultural Events in Schools
	4	Cultural Awareness/Activities
Community	1	Community Visits from Teaching Staff
	1	Teacher Connection with Parents
Services	1	Collaboration Between NDE and Schools
	1	Keep Material Updated
	5	Best Practices Parent Involvement Tool Kit
	1	Training in Rural Schools
	1	List of Speakers for Parent Night
	1	Web Page
	2	Rank/Recognize Schools for Parent Involvement
Other	1	Promote Higher Education Earlier
	1	Family Involvement on Bullying Issues
	1	Transportation
	1	Student Personal Goal Setting
	1	Information on Sports for Parents
	1	School Cross Training
	2	Listening
	1	Trust/Follow Through

Coordinating Council RPDP

1. Establish a statewide teacher/school training program for effective family engagement
2. Build capacity of families to support learning and academic achievement of their children

The Office has scheduled and coordinated several meetings with the RPDP Coordinating Council to discuss the family engagement teacher-training program.

As a result of the Office's leadership:

- The Northwestern RPDP Director garnered his Governing Board's approval to dedicate a trainer solely to family engagement.
- The Northeastern Director has added a parent section to their website, and uploaded a list of parent resources on Common Core State Standards created by the Office.
- Finally, the Office spearheaded a training to transition PIRC resources to RPDP trainers.

Availability of competitive grants

The Office provided a support letter for Washoe County School District's i3 grant application, and if they are awarded the grant, the Office will post their application, plan, funding information, and contact information on the NDE Parent Involvement website. Grant opportunities are continually being researched and will be posted on the NDE's PI website.

School District Advisory Council Support

This is a goal for the 2012-13 school year. The Office has already participated in a meeting of the Latino Round Table in Clark County School District in May. The Office will be working to engage Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) in each district and will continue to work with school districts to provide resources, training, and support.

Work with public schools to establish family engagement policies

As part of both Accountability Reports, and Title I Parent Involvement Policies (PIPs), school districts must plan and report about their policies and how they are implemented. The Office, as support to the Advisory Council, created a rubric to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent sections in the Accountability Reports at the June meeting. The Office and the Advisory Council will review a selection of Title I PIPs, including the reporting form, at the August meeting.

Work with State Board to establish guidelines for families to help their children with student achievement

1. Educational Involvement Accord

This is a goal for the upcoming year, with input from the Advisory Council. Any suggestions would then be presented to the State Board. In addition, the Office will provide technical

assistance to districts and schools to use and adapt the Accord to their unique needs in such areas as social media use.

Collaborate with stakeholders to plan, implement, and evaluate statewide Summit

From March until the Summit in May, the Office collaborated with stakeholders at every Summit Steering Committee meeting to help plan and organize the Summit.

In addition, the Office:

- Wrote up a portion of the registration brochure and created an ad about the Office.
- Attended organization meetings prior to the event and attended the event, introducing the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- Created a newsletter for the Summit bags to describe NDE programs that involve family engagement.
- Provided reflection during the Steering Committee's follow up meeting to identify strengths and weaknesses of the Summit, and to set goals for the next Summit. As part of the discussion, the Committee discussed having a mini-Summit in rural Nevada during Summit off years. The Office has collaborated with two other NDE consultants to set that plan into motion.

Following the Summit, NDE staff created a survey to gather feedback on the Office and the Summit.

Family Engagement

What are the best aspects of Connecting the Dots? (Check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Meeting other parent involvement specialists	38.9%	44
Hearing from state and national parent involvement experts	56.6%	64
Making parent involvement contacts	36.3%	41
Learning about best practices in parent involvement	78.8%	89
Making parent involvement a focus	56.6%	64
Making Connections	44.2%	50
Other (please specify)		4
answered question		113
skipped question		1

Family Engagement

Did you know that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has a parent involvement consultant?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.2%	47
No	58.8%	67
If Yes, how did you learn that the Nevada Department of Education has a parent involvement consultant?		27
<i>answered question</i>		114
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Family Engagement

Please respond to the following questions.

Answer Options	Yes	No	Somewhat	Response Count
Are you familiar with Nevada Assembly Bill AB224 (it supports Parent Involvement activities in education)?	39	36	39	114
Are you familiar with NDE's parent involvement policy?	38	44	30	112
Does your district or school have a Parent Involvement Advisory Council?	57	33	20	110
Other (please specify)				10
<i>answered question</i>				114
<i>skipped question</i>				0

Family Engagement

What support could NDE's Parent Involvement consultant provide to you and/or your school? Check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Parent Involvement Experts contact information	67.3%	74
Websites	57.3%	63
Books/references	41.8%	46
Training opportunities	84.5%	93
Grant opportunities	72.7%	80
Parent Involvement Events	79.1%	87
Other (please specify)		6
<i>answered question</i>		110
<i>skipped question</i>		4

Family Engagement

Under AB224, the NDE parent involvement consultant is to work with the Coordinating Council of the Regional Professional Development Program (RPDP) for educators. What type of training would be beneficial to your district/school/staff?(Check all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Best practices in schools	74.8%	80
Implementing and funding parent involvement	83.2%	89
Monitoring and Evaluating parent involvement	68.2%	73
Other (please specify)		7
answered question		107
skipped question		7

Family Engagement

To your knowledge which of the following does a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) do?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Participate in school improvement planning	57.0%	61
Participate in progressive discipline planning	22.4%	24
Give input on policy creation	48.6%	52
Help districts improve parent involvement	70.1%	75
No idea, we need help starting a PAC	14.0%	15
If you need help provide your name and district		4
answered question		107
skipped question		7

Assist school districts and schools to implement family engagement strategies to improve student achievement

The Office initiates and maintains regular contact with all 17 of the school districts, providing them with training and resource information. When the NDE Parent Involvement website is updated, the school districts are notified, so they can use its resources. In addition, as previously mentioned, the Office worked with the Advisory Council to purchase family engagement reference materials for all of the school districts and RPDP.

The Office is also working with Clark and Washoe County School Districts to learn how they are tying their family engagement programs to improved student achievement. That information will then be distributed to other districts to provide information and resources that they can implement to improve family engagement. These activities will serve as a springboard to spread family engagement across the State.

Work with Advisory Council to:

1. Evaluate Accountability Reports

Under the Office's direction, the Advisory Council has already reviewed the parent section of the Accountability Reports using a rubric. They will again take up the discussion in the August meeting with the goal of creating consistency in the reports.

2. Evaluate District and School Improvement Plans (DIPs and SIPs)

Currently, there is a minimal parent section in the SIP. NDE has recently worked to revise the SIP and Dip forms and to include additional information on parent involvement.

3. Review effectiveness of Office to carry out duties

A report of Office progress is presented at every Advisory Council meeting, and objectives and achievements are reviewed. In addition, the Office will provide the Council with a copy of this annual report.

4. Review State Parent Involvement Policy (PIP)

The State PIP was first reviewed by the Advisory Council at their June meeting and discussion will continue at the August meeting. Once the Council has made some suggestions, those will be presented to the State Board of Education.

5. Effective practices in other states

In July, the Office staff was able to travel to the East Coast to meet nationally acclaimed family engagement experts, attend trainings, and learn about their programs in Boston, MA, Washington, D.C, and Charlotte, NC. The Office will share that information with the school districts, RPDP, and post it on the website. This exceptional opportunity will not only provide Nevada with information and training resources, but will also connect the state with national family engagement experts.

6. Identify communication methods to families

At every Advisory Council meeting, we have school districts present best practices to the Council. Eventually, those practices will be shared with the school districts regarding the program, funding, and contacts that can provide more information. This was also the topic of review in the Accountability Reports.

7. Identify how family engagement affects students' attendance, discipline, and achievement

This is the primary focus of WCSD's i3 grant in conjunction with the Harvard Family Project. In addition, Clark County School District is beginning to gather similar data. NDE will share these programs with other districts and use them as models to improve family engagement and/or initiate additional programs.

8. Identify outreach methods to limited English speaking parents

Again, Clark and Washoe County School Districts have led the way with this work, as they are larger districts with staff assigned to family engagement. In addition, the PIFE coordinator for the Carson City School District works extensively with Latino parents. She also serves on the

Advisory Council. Through the website, the Office will share these programs with other school districts to provide ideas and resources they can readily use.

Website:

1. Best practices
2. Report
3. Other relevant resources

The Office is transitioning the PIRC website to be the NDE Parent Involvement website, linked to the main NDE website.

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, the website will offer:

- All of the training resources and links PIRC had.
- New information about programs, funding, training, resources, and contacts that have been added by the Office.

It will be a helpful resource for schools and parents. It is anticipated that the website will be available by the end of August.

Work with Commission on Professional Standards in Education to create coursework centered on family engagement

The following tasks have been accomplished in collaboration with the Commission:

- The Commission's Task Force created coursework.
- The Council approved the coursework.
- NDE will provide feedback in regards to the coursework requirements.

Conclusion

During the first five months, since the Office was staffed, NDE has worked in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure that many of the requirements of AB224 have been achieved. NDE is in the process of developing an action plan for the 2012-13 school year to accomplish the remainder of tasks required by AB224.

Overview of AB 224: Parent Involvement & Family Engagement (PIFE)

March 5, 2012	→	Create PIFE Office at Nevada Department of Education and effectively staff it
First Meeting: April 18, 2012; ongoing	→	Advisory Council on Parental Involvement and Family Engagement
Began: June 14, 2012 and will continue in August 2012	→	Evaluate School Districts' Parent Involvement Plans & Accountability Reports with a focus on PIFE
	→	Evaluate NDE PIFE Office activities
Ongoing	→	Work with State Board of Education to create policies governing PIFE
2013	→	Review PIFE best practices from each school district and create a resource base of effective practices
Four meetings: March-June; PIRC transition meeting June 18, 2012; Sample CCSS for families training; ongoing	→	Serve on Statewide Council for the Coordination of Regional Training Programs to create and maintain PIFE training for teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals
Advisory Council approved 3 credit hours of PIFE in April 18, 2012; CPSE approved in 6/13/12	→	Work in conjunction with the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to create PIFE requirements for teacher licensure
2013	→	Create a database of competitive PIFE grant opportunities
May 18, 2012	→	Work with other PIFE agencies to offer an Education Summit every two years
2013	→	Work with school districts that have a PIFE Advisory Council and encourage all school districts to do so
Ongoing	→	Work with schools to build their capacity to use PIFE to improve student achievement
Meetings June 6&7, 2012, to transition PIRC website to NDE; organization of new website approved June 28, 2012	→	Create and maintain a website to provide information about effective PIFE practices, annual reports, and other relevant information
By August 1, annually	→	Create an annual report , in conjunction with the Advisory Council on PIFE, to discuss the progress of PIFE at each school district; and to summarize accomplishments of the NDE PIFE Office